

February 3, 1984

LR 227

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator McDonald.

SENATOR MCDONALD: Mr. President, members of the body, you should have been handed out an outline of what the LR does. The intent of LR 227 is to give authorization to cities and villages in Nebraska to participate in and initiate programs for the rehabilitation of blighted property. At present there is only the statutory authority to participate in projects that are wholly federally funded. As the policy on these programs is to phase out the federal support in the long run, an authorization for Nebraska cities and villages is needed to accept this responsibility locally if these much needed programs are to continue. These programs for the rehabilitation of properties in blighted areas are the most cost effective of all urban revitalization programs and retain the aesthetic qualities of the area. This constitutional authorization is needed to accommodate the changes in federal policy that are predicted. This bill would also allow tax increment or community improvement financing to be used in rehabilitation projects. Rehabilitation is critically important to the revitalization of all urban areas in Nebraska. The proposed legislation recognizes that importance. More importantly it will allow Nebraska cities to develop innovative financing techniques designed to preserve their property tax bases and housing supply well into the future. I think this legislation makes good economic sense for the state and its citizens and I would urge your adoption of LR 227.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers has an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill, amend the resolution, excuse me, "On page 1, line 11, strike the second "or" and insert the word "and".

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the word "or" appears twice in that line on that page. I want to strike the second one and insert the